REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 15, 2005. Claims 1 to 21 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 10 to 13 and 17 to 19 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 to 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,579,447 (Salgado). Claims 13 and 17 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,058,277 (Streefkerk). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Salgado, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,891,632 (Schwartz). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Streefkerk in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,816,270 (Cooper). Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sstreefkerk in view of Schwartz. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Salgado in view of Streefkerk. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns an information processing apparatus that serves as a host computer for forming print data which can be interpreted by a printing apparatus.

Claims 1 and 10 to 12

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to an information processing apparatus that serves as a host computer for forming print data which can be interpreted by a printing apparatus. The information processing apparatus includes receiving means for receiving draw information based on a print document formed by an application; obtaining means for obtaining a plurality of pieces of print set information stored in a storage unit; estimating means for estimating, based on the draw information received by the

receiving means and the plurality of pieces of print set information obtained by the obtaining means, a plurality of print times, each required for a printing process of the draw information, the plurality of print times respectively corresponding to the plurality of pieces of print set information; display control means for controlling such that the plurality of print times estimated by the estimating means for the draw information are displayed before the print data is formed; and forming means for forming, if execution of the printing process is determined after the plurality of print times are displayed by the display control means, the print data which can be interpreted by the printing apparatus based on the draw information received by the receiving means and a selected one of the plurality of pieces of print set information.

Independent Claims 10, 11 and 12 are respectively directed to a method, computer-readable memory medium and computer-executable program which generally correspond with Claim 1.

One feature of the invention of Claims 1, 10, 11 and 12 therefore lies in estimating, based on draw information received and a plurality of pieces of print set information obtained, a plurality of print times each required for a printing process of the draw information, which print times respectively correspond to the plurality of pieces of print set information. That is, an estimate is generated of a plurality of print times for one print job.

In contrast, the printer disclosed by Salgado displays a plurality of print times for respective different print jobs, as shown in Fig. 10. In addition, the printer estimates print times for respective images in each page of one print job, as shown in Fig. 9. Salgado accordingly fails to teach estimating and displaying a plurality of print times each required for the printing process of the same one draw information (i.e., the same one print job), where the plurality of print times correspond, respectively, to a plurality of pieces of print set information.

Another feature of the invention of Claims 1, 10, 11 and 12 is that the plurality of print times estimated for one draw information are displayed before the print data, which can be interpreted by a printing apparatus, is formed. However, the printer of Salgado estimates the print times for respective jobs based on a language (PDL) which can be interpreted by the printing apparatus that received the jobs. Namely, Salgado displays the print times after the print data is formed.

In light of the deficiencies of Salgado as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 10, 11 and 12 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 13 and 17 to 19

Independent Claim 13 as amended is directed to an information processing apparatus that serves as a host computer for forming print data which can be interpreted by a printing apparatus, comprising: obtaining means for obtaining draw information based on a print document formed by an application; estimating means for, based on the draw information obtained by said obtaining means and a plurality of print modes stored in a storage unit, estimating a plurality of print times, each required for a printing process of the draw information, the plurality of print times respectively corresponding to the plurality of print modes; display control means for controlling such that the plurality of print times estimated by said estimating means for the draw information are displayed in correspondence to the plurality of print modes; selection means for selecting one of the plurality of print modes displayed by said display control means via a user interface; and forming means for forming said print data based on the one print

mode selected by said selection means and the draw information obtained by said obtaining means.

Independent Claims 17, 18 and 19 are respectively directed to a method, computer-readable memory medium and computer-executable program which generally correspond with Claim 13.

Thus, among its many features, the invention of Claims 13, 17, 18 and 19 provides for estimating, based on draw information obtained and a plurality of print modes stored in a storage unit, a plurality of print times, each required for a printing process of the draw information, which print times respectively correspond to the plurality of print modes.

In contrast, Streefkerk discloses a workstation that displays the waiting time in a selected printer. As shown in Fig. 7, the workstation simultaneously displays the waiting time (701) of a newly introduced print order and the processing time (702) of the print order. Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 8, the workstation displays estimated processing times for respective different print orders (801-806). (See Streefkerk, column 6, lines 3 to 30.) Accordingly, Streefkerk fails to teach estimating and displaying a plurality of print times, each required for the printing process of the same one draw information (i.e., the same one print job), which print times respectively correspond to a plurality of print modes.

In addition the selection means of Claim 13 selects one of the plurality of displayed print modes via a user interface, and the forming means forms the print data based on the selected one print mode. However, Streefkerk fails to teach selecting one of the plurality of displayed print modes via the user interface and forming the print data based on the selected print mode. Streefkerk shows selecting different medium, format or finish option. (Fig. 4, column 4, lines 40 to 55.) As such, Streefkerk, fails to disclose or suggest estimating and displaying print

times for each print mode, for example media, formats or finish options, and forming the print data based on the selected one medium, format or finish option.

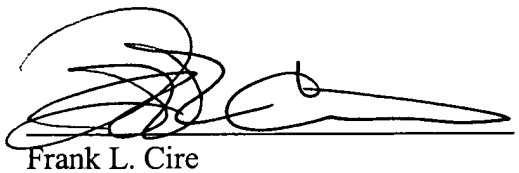
In light of the deficiencies of Streefkerk as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 13, 17, 18 and 19 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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